speak. First, Shri Ranjit Nayak, Cambridge University. Second, Shri K.P. Singh, for Ph. D. sent to Merryland. Third, Shri G.D. Rathore, he has accepted the offer, but has yet to go. Next, Shri Rajindra Parihar, for post doctorate. He has accepted the offer and has yet to go. Shri P. Umesh Chandra, SC, going for Ph.D. This is the first thing and now there is no question of misleading.

Sir, next thing is that Shri Sharad Pawar had met me. He has also raised the same issue which you raised. I asked him to send the proposal through state Govt. for no assistance can be extended without the approval of the state Govt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : It has come from the Maharashtra Govt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will verify it. I think that has not reached us but they say it has come if it has come then we will look into it sympathetically...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have not mislead, instead you have acted as a beacon light.

[English]

Grant of Dual Citizenship

*365. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received numerous representations from the NRIs for the grant of dual citizenship; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

SHRI MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Question of grant of dual citizenship has been considered but it could not be accepted as the concept is not consistent with the Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act, 1955.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, granting dual citizenship to the NRIs is not only in their interest but it is in the interest of the nation also, especially in the liberalisation regime; and that the Government has considered this question, means that the Government find that it is useful to the nation.

But as the Minister has already pointed out, there are legal hurdles. So this Constitutional hurdle and the Citizenship Act, 1955 are only standing in the way. In view of that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider amending these Acts thereby getting rid of the legal hurdles and then consider the question of accepting the proposal.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, any Act can always be amended. That is a different matter. As far as the Citizenship Act is concerned, at present, Section 9 lays down that if any person voluntarily accepts or acquires the citizenship of another country, *i.e.* if any Indian voluntarily acquires the citizenship of any country, then he ceases to be an Indian citizen and he has to give up his Indian citizenship in that case.

Secondly, of course, he, the NRI concerned, has to to be a person of Indian ogigin. That is obvious. Indian origin has also got a specific definition which I think is quite liberal.

Thirdly, it is true that if dual citizenship is given, then the people who get this dual citizenship will certainly get certain advantages and benefits which they are not having otherwise. I do not deny that. It is very advantageous for them. For their coming and going for their business purposes; for the education of their children and so on, they will certainly be able to derive quite a number of benefits. But there is another side to this question which we also have to consider and these matters are also being studied carefully. If a person gets dual citizenship and he remains as a national citizenship of another country also, will he have the right to exercise all political rights in this country? We have to examine this question. If he is an Indian citizen and also a citizen of a foreign country, he can be elected to any post here. He can become a President of the country or Vice-President of the country or something. He can enter these sensitive areas like the security forces, the police, the Army and everything.

Regarding remaining a citizenship of another country also, I am not saying that these are things which cannot be dealt with but the matter has to be studied more carefully. I do not consider the present position regarding dual citizenship. This has been going on for years ever since the Constitution was adopted. It has never been agreed that dual citizenship should be given. I do not myself wish to such a rigid stand because the Constitution was adopted many years ago. Things are changing. I think there are many aspects of this question which deserve to get a second look and I would like if some Committee also, maybe, the Standing Committee or any other Committee should go into this matter in greater detail and discuss this question and come up with their recommendations in the light of the prevailing situation. So it is an open question. I am not closing it. I am not closing it, but neither can I give a commitment here just now that dual citizenship will be agreed to.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am happy that he has agreed for setting up a Committee to look into this matter in great detail.

My second supplementary is that a lot of Indians are working abroad as NRIs. There have been a number of representations to give them the right to exercise their votes during the time of General Elections. I mean it is to facilitate their voting, to give some provisions so that they can vote also. Those representations are with the Ministry. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether he will consider those proposals of giving voting rights to Indians working abroad, I mean the immigrants.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes, this matter deserves consideration and in my Ministry, we are giving this matter a consideration, provided these people continue to be Indian citizens. This demand or request from them to exercise voting rights in India is certainly a question which deserves sympathetic consideration.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I only want to ask this much from the Minister what will be the position of Non-President Indians living in Hong Kong after the Hong Kong is handed over to China after 2000 A.D.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I did n't follow your question regarding what will happen to them.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Where will they go?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They will remain there where they are at present.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : It won't happen like that. Will they like to live in China or not? Indian Government is concerned with it or not and talked to their representatives or not? You cannot take this issue lightly.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I can't help it if you take everything lightly whatever I say.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Please, excuse me. I will not take it lightly. I will take it seriously. I also wish that you will take my question seriously.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : People belonging to many castes and races live in Hong Kong. Hong Kong will become a part of China when Hong Kong marges with China. Some of them will be ready to live there and it may be that some people will have objection in living there.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Polluting factories/mills

*363. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an on-the-spot inspection has been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board in regard to some factories/mills polluting the environment in various States particularly in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and place-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received report in respect of all these factories/mills; and

(d) if so, the action taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Government has targeted 17 categories of highly polluting industries under a Special Action Plan for control of pollution. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards of various States including Gujarat, are monitoring the compliance of environmental standards laid down for industries. The CPCB periodically submits compliance reports to the Government. Based on the reports and action thereof, out of 1551 units, 1259 units have so far installed the requisite pollution control measures, 112 units are closed and 180 units are in different stages of complying with the requirements. Action has been taken against the defaulting units under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Details of on-the-spot inspections undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board in respect of 17 categories of highly polluting industrial units in various States during the last three years are as follows :

S.No.	State	Places Visited	Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Vizianagram, Jampani, Dowleswaram, Pithapuram, Howlpatanam, Bhadravati, Godavari, Chagallu, Chittoor, Anantpur and Krishna Districts.	17
2.	Assam	Panchgram	1
3.	Bihar	Bhagalpur, Amjohre, Palamau	3
4.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar, Valsad, Bharuch, Nandesari, Vadodara, Vapi, Valsad Distt., Kheda Distt.	15
5.	Haryana	Kaithal, Jind, Hissar, Rohtak, Faridabad, Hathin	7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Kala Amb	2
7.	Karnataka	Belgaum, Haveri, Shimoga, Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Bramhavara, Shirali, Hassan, Kollegal, Mysore, Gouribidanur, Bangalore, Ugar Khurd, Gokak, Mandya, Anjanapura.	27